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ORIGIN/ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE AIRGRAM

A-177
NO.

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HANDLING INDICATOR

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 31 8 AM 1967

TO : Department of State

INFO: ATHENS, BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE, PARIS ALSO FOR USNATO

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ANALYSIS BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY WJ
DATE: May 28, 1967
6 DMAY 1982
RDS or RE-CLAT. DATE
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FROM : American Embassy, Luxembourg

SUBJECT : Government of Luxembourg Attitude Toward Greek Coup

REF :

The military coup in Greece has been criticized by all elements of opinion in Luxembourg, varying from the relatively cautious and conditional disapproval of the newspaper Wort (Christian Social), to the violent denunciations of the Communists. In a special statement, the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party, junior partner in the governing coalition, denounced the coup in strong terms. The Party expressed its solidarity with the European Community Socialist Party Liaison Office, which had taken the position that the overthrow of democracy in Greece could not be reconciled with the obligations arising from Greek membership in the Council of Europe, Greece's signature of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms, or Greece's status of association with the Common Market. Noting the absence of signs of a return to democracy in Greece, Socialists voiced two demands: (1) the immediate restoration of parliamentary democracy and freedom; (2) the unconditional application of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Basic Freedoms, in particular, the immediate release of all political prisoners.

This resolution led to the interpellation of the Government in the Chamber of Deputies on May 25. The reply was given by Prime Minister Werner. On behalf of the Government, Werner expressed deep concern over the damage to "constitutionalism and the free play of the democratic system" in Greece, and called for their rapid restoration. He rejected, however, the idea of diplomatic sanctions of any kind, both on grounds of alleged customary usage in international relations, and because other friendly governments had also continued normal diplomatic relations with Greece.

A translation of the full text of Werner's statement is attached.

HARRIS

FORM DS-323 4-62

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In Out

Drafted by: RWBoehm/mwc

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

UNCLASSIFIED

A-177, Luxembourg

Informal Translation of Prime Minister Werner's Declaration on Political Situation in Greece

Public opinion has been deeply disturbed by the recent political events in Greece, as evidenced by various resolutions on the subject which are reflected in questions put to the Government.

We are all the more sensitive to what has happened in Athens because, beyond the traditional friendship that we have for the Greek people, special bonds have been forged with the Hellenic state within the framework of the Atlantic Alliance and more recently, the Common Market.

Taking account of these close links, we cannot remain indifferent to the political upheaval that has occurred in that country, and I would not want to conceal that the Government of Luxembourg is actively preoccupied by the damage done to constitutional order and to the free play of the democratic system. In this situation, I wish to express the fervent wish that Greek democratic institutions, as well as constitutional guarantees of the rights and freedoms of persons, may be rapidly reestablished. In this connection, a recent declaration of the Hellenic sovereign promising a return to constitutional government is a sign of hope that may, as we ardently hope, be fulfilled in a short time. These being our feelings, it remains to know what practical consequences on the diplomatic level should be drawn from our attitude. In this connection, the Government will take its lead from regular usage in international relations, according to which governments abstain, to the extent that their national interests are not directly affected, from expressing judgments of the political regimes of foreign countries or of carrying out acts pertaining to them that could be considered as interference in internal affairs. Not only are we insufficiently informed on the underlying causes and circumstances of the events which have just occurred, but it must also be considered that our relations with a large number of countries would be in difficulty if these relations depended on value judgments as to the quality of the internal regimes in power in one or another of them.

The Chamber will note that the attitude adopted by the Government of Luxembourg accords with that of countries with which we maintain close relations of neighborhood and friendship: even those among friendly governments which have taken the most pronounced positions in this affair have not gone beyond purely verbal expressions, so that their ties with the new government in Athens have up to now continued normally both on the diplomatic level and within the various organizations of which Greece is a member.

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